

Appln. No. 10/782,117  
Amendment dated July 27, 2006  
Reply to Office Action mailed April 27, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently amended) A rotary blade holding tool for facilitating holding a rotary blade during manipulation of the rotary blade, said rotary blade holding tool comprising:

an elongated sheath having opposite ends and an opening extending into one of the ends of said elongated sheath for snugly receiving an end of the rotary blade whereby said elongated sheath surrounds and covers the end of the rotary blade, said elongated sheath being graspable by a user such that the user prevents rotation of the rotary blade;

wherein said elongated sheath is bowed along a longitudinal axis of said elongated sheath between said ends whereby said elongated sheath securely engages the end of the rotary blade as it is inserted into said opening;

wherein said elongated sheath is structured to include an aperture extending through said elongated sheath, said aperture being positioned proximate an end of said elongated sheath opposite said opening.

2. (Original) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 1 wherein said opening has a width of about 1 inch for receiving the end of the rotary blade.

3. (Original) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 1 wherein said elongated sheath has a length of about fifteen and one half inches.

4. (Original) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 1 wherein said elongated sheath has an oblong cross-sectional shape for facilitating comfortable grasping of said elongated sheath.

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5. (Original) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 1 wherein said elongated sheath has a width of about three and one half inches.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 1 wherein said bowed character of said sheath positions a medial portion of said elongated sheath in an offset relationship to end portions of said elongated sheath.

9. (Currently Amended) The rotary blade holding tool of claim [[[6]]] 1 wherein said aperture has a diameter of about one half inches.

10. (Currently Amended) A rotary blade holding tool for facilitating holding a rotary blade during manipulation of the rotary blade, said rotary blade holding tool comprising:

an elongated sheath having an opening extending into said elongated sheath for snugly receiving an end of the rotary blade whereby said elongated sheath surrounds and covers the end of the rotary blade, said elongated sheath being graspable by a user such that the user prevents rotation of the rotary blade;

wherein said elongated sheath is bowed along a longitudinal axis of said elongated sheath whereby said elongated sheath securely engages the end of the rotary blade as it is inserted into said opening; and

wherein said bowed character of said sheath positions a medial portion of said elongated sheath in an offset relationship to end portions of said elongated sheath;

wherein said elongated sheath is structured to include an aperture extending through said elongated sheath, said aperture being positioned proximate an end of said elongated sheath opposite said opening.

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11. (Previously presented) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 10 wherein said opening has a width of about 1 inch for receiving the end of the rotary blade.

12. (Previously presented) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 10 wherein said elongated sheath has a length of about fifteen and one half inches.

13. (Previously presented) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 10 wherein said elongated sheath has an oblong cross-sectional shape for facilitating comfortable grasping of said elongated sheath.

14. (Previously presented) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 10 wherein said elongated sheath has a width of about three and one half inches.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The rotary blade holding tool of claim [[[15]]] 10 wherein said aperture has a diameter of about one half inches.

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17. (Currently Amended) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 10 wherein said opening has a width of about 1 inch for receiving the end of the rotary blade;

wherein said elongated sheath has a length of about fifteen and one half inches;

wherein said elongated sheath has an oblong cross-sectional shape for facilitating comfortable grasping of said elongated sheath;

wherein said elongated sheath has a width of about three and one half inches;

~~wherein said elongated sheath is structured to include an aperture extending through said elongated sheath, said aperture being positioned proximate an end of said elongated sheath opposite said opening; and~~

wherein said aperture has a diameter of about one half inches.

18. (Currently Amended) The rotary blade holding tool of claim 1 wherein said opening has a width of about 1 inch for receiving the end of the rotary blade;

wherein said elongated sheath has a length of about fifteen and one half inches;

wherein said elongated sheath has an oblong cross-sectional shape for facilitating comfortable grasping of said elongated sheath;

wherein said elongated sheath has a width of about three and one half inches;

~~wherein said elongated sheath is structured to include an aperture extending through said elongated sheath, said aperture being positioned proximate an end of said elongated sheath opposite said opening;~~

wherein said bowed character of said sheath positions a medial portion of said elongated sheath in an offset relationship to end portions of said elongated sheath; and

wherein said aperture has a diameter of about one half inches.